Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) ~~In a communication system including one or more participating hosts logically connected by at least one packet network link, the participating hosts being associated with one or more reservation proxy elements, a method comprising the reservation proxy elements performing steps of:~~
~~receiving a multicast group address to be used for a prospective communication between the participating hosts;~~
~~joining the multicast group address;~~
~~exchanging one or more control messages across the packet network link, thereby signaling one or more network devices to establish a reservation of communication resources on the packet network link for the prospective communication.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~12, wherein the reservation proxy elements are incorporated within one or more controllers of the communication system.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~7, wherein the ~~participating hosts are distributed among a plurality of zones of the communication system, the~~ at least one packet network link compris~~ing~~es an inter-zone link.

4. (withdrawn) ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~
~~receiving, from the one or more network devices, confirmation of the reservation; and~~

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~~communicating, to a controller, indicia of availability of the communication resources on the packet network link for the prospective communication.~~

5. (withdrawn) ~~The method of claim 4, wherein upon the controller receiving indicia of availability of the communication resources on the packet network link for the prospective communication, the controller performs steps of:~~
~~granting the call request; and~~
~~instructing the participating hosts to join the multicast group address to participate in an active call.~~

6. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~12, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ one or more reservation messages includes the multicast group address for the ~~prospective communication~~call.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~12, further comprising~~wherein the step of~~ exchanging one or more control messages between the reservation proxy elements, wherein the reservation proxy elements are associated with one or more participating hosts logically connected by at least one packet network link, and wherein the step of exchanging further comprises:

sending, from a sourcing reservation proxy element of the one or more reservation proxy elements, a first control message across the packet network link, the first control message being addressed to the multicast group address;

receiving, by one or more receiving reservation proxy elements having joined the multicast group address, the first control message; and

sending, by the receiving reservation proxy elements responsive to the first control message, respective second control messages across the packet network link.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first control message comprises an RSVP path message and the second control messages comprise RSVP reserve messages.

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9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the RSVP path messages include a wildcard filter protocol, allowing for the reservation of communication resources on the packet network link to be used by an unspecified host of the participating hosts.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the RSVP path messages include a shared explicit protocol, allowing for the reservation of communication resources on the packet network link to be used by any one of a plurality of specified hosts of the participating hosts.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the RSVP path messages include a fixed filter protocol, allowing for the reservation of communication resources on the packet network link to be used by each one of a plurality of specified hosts of the participating hosts.

12. (original) In a communication system including one or more reservation proxy elements associated with a plurality of zones, a method comprising:

receiving a call request for a talkgroup call;

identifying a multicast group address for the call;

determining locations of one or more participating devices for the call, thereby determining a number of participating zones of the plurality of zones, the reservation proxy elements associated with the participating zones defining participating reservation proxy elements;

communicating the multicast group address to the participating reservation proxy elements; and

receiving, from the participating reservation proxy elements, indicia of availability of communication resources on one or more links between the participating zones.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

granting the call request in response to a positive determination of availability; and

instructing the participating devices to join the multicast group address.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising busying the call request in response to a negative determination of availability.

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15. (original) The method of claim 12, performed by one or more controllers of the communication system.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more controllers comprise communication resource controllers incorporating the one or more reservation proxy elements.

17. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining indicia of availability of communication resources on a call-by-call basis.

18. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising instructing the reservation proxy elements to leave the multicast group address upon determining indicia of availability of communication resources on one or more links between the participating zones.

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